her vanity, but her heart. This I do not allow to be coquetry, it is the artleſs impulſe of nature, I only exclaim againſt the ſexual deſire of conqueſt when the heart is out of the queſtion.

This deſire is not confined to women; 'I 'have endeavoured,' ſays Lord Cheſterfield, 'to gain the hearts of twenty women, whoſe 'perſons I would not have given a fig for.' The libertine, who, in a guſt of paſſion, takes advantage of unſuſpecting tenderneſs, is a ſaint when compared with this cold-hearted raſcal; for I like to uſe ſignificant words. Yet only taught to pleaſe, women are always on the watch to pleaſe, and with true heroic ardour endeavour to gain hearts merely to reſign, or ſpurn them, when the victory is decided, and conſpicuous.

I muſt deſcend to the minutiæ of the ſubject.

I lament that women are ſyſtematically degraded by receiving the trivial attentions, which men think it manly to pay to the ſex, when, in fact, they are inſultingly ſupporting their own ſuperiority. It is not condeſcenſion to bow to an inferior. So ludicrous, in fact, do theſe ceremonies appear to me, that

that I ſcarcely am able to govern my muſcles, when I ſee a man ſtart with eager, and ſerious ſolicitude to lift a handkerchief, or ſhut a door, when the *lady* could have done it herſelf, had ſhe only moved a pace or two.

A wild wiſh has juſt flown from my heart to my head, and I will not ſtifle it though it may excite a horſe-laugh.—I do earneſtly wiſh to ſee the diſtinction of ſex confounded in ſociety, unleſs where love animates the behaviour. For this diſtinction is, I am firmly perſuaded, the foundation of the weakneſs of character aſcribed to woman; is the cauſe why the underſtanding is neglected, whilſt accompliſhments are acquired with ſedulous care: and the ſame cauſe accounts for their preferring the graceful before the heroic virtues.

Mankind, including every deſcription, wiſh to be loved and reſpected for *ſomething*; and the common herd will always take the neareſt road to the completion of their wiſhes. The reſpect paid to wealth and beauty is the moſt certain, and unequivocal; and, of courſe, will always attract the vulgar eye of common minds. Abilities and virtues are abſolutely neceſſary to raiſe men from the middle rank